(f) the action taken so far in pursuance of the verdict of the Supreme Court; and

(g) the scheme of the Government to provide pollution-free raw-water to Agra Water Authority in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The Agra Water Works takes water from the Yamuna and supplies it to the city after treatment. The water supplied has been found at times to be not meeting the required standards and this can affect the human health.

(d) to (g). The Union Government has not received any direction from the Supreme Court. Government has initiated the formulation of an Action Plan for cleaning the River Yamuna.

Special Assistance to Bihar

6278. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special assistance to Bihar to check water pollution in the state; and

(b) if so, when and the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). There are an on-going programmes of the Government to help check water pollution in all the States, including Bihar, These are:

i) Fiscal incentives are provided and loan facilities made available for installation of pollution control equipment;

ii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants;

iii) The Ganga Action Plan is implementing major water pollution control schemes on the Ganga in Bihar. So far 45 schemes worth Rs. 43 crores approximately have been sanctioned in Bihar, some of which are still in progress.

[*English*]

Acid Pollution in Northern Kashmir

6279.SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee headed by Dr. M.A. Kawosa, Director of Environment and Remote Sensing, was set up recently to study acid pollution in northern Kashmir caused by the burning of oil wells in Kuwait during and after the Gulf war;

(b) if so, the major findings and recommendations of the committee, and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No such expert committee was set up by the Government. However, Dr. M.A. Kawosa, Director of the Department of Environment and Remote Sensing of Jammu & Kashmir, along with a few others, conducted a preliminary study in April, 1991 on the reported occurrence of black snow in northern Kashmir.

(b) Major findings of this study are that plumes of acid pollution from the burning oil